

From: [Emily Johannes](#)
To: ["Susan A Kennedy"](#);
cc: ["Steve Kokkinakis"](#); ["Cristi.Reid@noaa.gov"](#);
Subject: EA on Issuance of Permit No. 13430
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 3:02:00 PM

Sue-

Ready for your concurrence is an Environmental Assessment for the Issuance of a Permit (File No. 13430) for Research on Marine Mammals along the coasts of Washington and Oregon. NMFS proposes to issue a permit for research on marine mammals in the wild, pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.). The permit would be valid for five years from the date of issuance and would exempt the permit holder from the MMPA's prohibition against "taking" marine mammals in the wild, allowing researchers authorized by the permit to conduct bona fide scientific research consistent with the purpose and policy of the MMPA. The permit would cover research on Pacific harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*), California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*), and northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) within coastal waters and on pinniped rookeries and haul outs of Washington and Oregon.

Research activities being evaluated include aerial, vessel, and ground surveys; capture for collection of tissue samples, attachment of scientific instruments and application of marks (flipper tags, brands, etc.); and playback experiments. These research activities may result in "takes" of marine mammals by capture, attempted capture, and level B and level A (including mortality) harassment as defined in the MMPA and NMFS regulations (50 CFR 216.4). The research will directly affect the target species, all of which are not listed under the ESA, although these effects will not be significant. There is potential to indirectly affect non-target listed species in the vicinity of the research, however, the effects are anticipated to be not significant because the researchers will coordinate with others in the project area to reduce the harassment to these populations.

The EA has been reviewed by NMFS-HQ and NMFS GCF (Mary O'Brien).

Filing information:

Year: FY10 (Feb 2010)

Lead on Plan: NMFS/PR

Plan/Authorization: MMPA

Title: EA for the Issuance of a Permit (File No. 13430) for Research on Marine Mammals

Grant: No

NEPA Document: EA

Status: Reviewed by Emily, signed by Sue, sent to Tammy Adams

Summary: permit the taking of marine mammals under MMPA for research activities